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disclos applicant's claimed "..first means, responsive to user interaction with said rendered report, <u>for selecting one of said at least one displayed attribute and causing said one of said at least one displayed attribute to change to respective said at least one conditional attribute</u>" in combination with a "...second means, responsive to user interaction with said at least one rendered conditional attribute, <u>for selecting one of said at least one conditional attribute and causing said one of said at least one conditional attribute to change to respective said at least one displayed attribute</u>.." Balabine et al fails to correct the deficiencies of the Knutson et al patent. Balabine et al fails to disclose applicant's "..first means, responsive to user interaction with said rendered report, <u>for selecting one of said at least one displayed attribute and causing said one of said at least one displayed attribute to change to respective said at least one conditional attribute</u>" in combination with a "...second means, responsive to user interaction with said at least one rendered conditional attribute, <u>for selecting one of said at least one conditional attribute and causing said one of said at least one conditional attribute to change to respective said at least one displayed attribute</u>.." Both Knutson et al and Balabine et al still further fail to disclose applicant's claimed "means, responsive to said at least one conditional and displayed attributes, for generating a subsequent query."

In response to the Examiner's First Response to Arguments, applicant offered the following additional remarks. The Examiner states that Knutson discloses, "at least one conditional attribute" and "at least one display attribute". For support, the Examiner relies on the abstract of Knutson. However, what Knutson states in the abstract is "allowing a user to segment and partition a database based upon attributes associated with the data in the database". Knutson fails to specifically state what attributes are used. Applicant's claimed invention is directed to the use of very clear and distinct attributes, namely **at least one conditional attribute and at least one display attribute**. While the Examiner relies on Column 8, line 65 – column 9, line 9 for the teaching of the conditional attribute, applicant believes that Knutson fails to teach or suggest what is the conditional attribute. The cited column reference is silent on the use of "conditional attributes". Nor does Knutson teach or suggest the use of display attributes. The Examiner attention is directed to Figures 13 and 16 of Knutson. The

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attributes taught by Knutson are "business attributes" (see column 19, lines 16 – 17) for departments, product-type, manufacturer, and size (see column 39, lines 22 – 47).

The Examiner reliance on column 27, lines 39 – 47 of Knutson for the teaching of applicant's claimed display attribute is misplaced. No way does the dropdown combo box of Knutson correspond to applicant's display attribute. Nor does Knutson teach or suggest how a display attribute, as suggested by the Examiner, is changed to at least one conditional attribute. Nothing in Knutson teaches or suggests this change as required by applicant's claimed invention. Again applicant's claimed invention "**...for selecting one of said at least one displayed attribute and causing said one of said at least one displayed attribute to change to respective said at least one conditional attribute**".

It is noted that the Examiner states that Knutson as modified teaches the changing of conditional attributes to display attributes and vice-versa and cites column 16, lines 38 – 54 as support. First, the cited section of Knutson does not teach or suggest the changing of any type of attribute into another, in as much as using the "attributes" taught in the Knutson patent, again see Figures 13 and 16. Further, Balabine does not teach or suggest applicant's claimed features as stated above.

Nor does Knutson teach or suggest applicant's claimed invention requiring the changing of "**....to cause all conditional attributes to change to displayed attributes and to cause all displayed attributes to changed to conditional attributes.**" as taught in applicant's claim 9. In fact, nowhere in Knutson is there a suggestion, either singularly and in combination with Balabine of changing the system templates of Knutson with other templates.

It is still further noted that the Examiner states that Knutson discloses the use of "conditional attributes" in column 6, lines 63 – 66. again, what Knutson teaches in this section is the use of system templates and queries for retrieving data from a data warehouse 24. It is further not possible for the use of "manipulating data views" to read

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on applicants claimed feature of causing conditional attributes to change to a display attribute, as suggested by the Examiner, with reference to column 7, lines 26 – 37. What Knutson is doing is changing from one display template to another display template. This does not correspond to the claim language of applicant's claimed invention.

In response to the Examiner's Response to Arguments stated in the Advisory Action, applicant offers the following additional remarks. Applicant's method deals with navigating in the space of query results starting from a result of a specific query. There are really two spaces: one is the space of queries (Q-space) and one is the space of results (or data, D-space), that is, the space where the database resides. The two spaces are related by a bi-directional correspondence, but not a bi-univocal one. When a query is created, a point in the Q-space is selected. When applicant submitted that query, applicant obtained as a result a volume (cloud of points) in the D-space. A slightly different query, that is, a point in Q-space close to the previous one, may generate a different cloud in D-space. The database itself is a larger cloud in D-space corresponding to a point in Q-space, which returns all data.

Therefore, moving in the Q-space means to generate sequences of clouds in D-space. If one dynamically changes the query by visual interface, they can see in real time the results. Additionally, one can change the query by selecting new values or new criteria "classic way" or one can move the point in space inside a sphere whose radius is delta, and see how the cloud changes. When the cloud looks like expected, the query is frozen. This is one aspect of applicant's invention: not the visual method itself to generate a query, but a different way to choose query points in Q-space to obtain the expected results. Rather than thinking in terms of conditions on data, applicant's invention slightly moves direct points in Q-space to obtain different result and judge directly if the result is what we want or not.

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Applicant's claimed invention specifically requires "...**f r selecting one of said at least one displayed attribute and causing said one of said at least one displayed attribute to change to respective said at least one conditional attribute**" and "**...at least one conditional attribute to change to respective said at least one displayed attribute**". While applicant still maintains that Knutson does not teach or suggest applicant's claimed conditional and display attributes, applicant notes that both the Knutson et al. patent and the Examiner fail to point out how any cited reference of record suggest "**causing said one of said at least one displayed attribute to change to respective said at least one conditional attribute**". In the Examiner's Advisory Action mailed July 25, 2003, the Examiner failed to address this requirement of applicant's claimed invention. While the Examiner appears to be relying on column 7, lines 26 – 37 of Knutson et al (see the Final Office Action mailed March 25, 2003) for some teachings, Knutson fails to teach or suggest the changing of a display attribute to a conditional attribute.

Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine or modify the teachings of the Knutson et al in view of Balabine et al to make applicant's claimed invention.

In view of the remarks herein, applicants believe that the application is now condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and allow the above-identified application.

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Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper and any previous paper to deposit account 09-0468.

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